31. *PEGIA NITIDA* COLEBR. — A NEW RECORD FOR WESTERN HIMALAYA

Pegia Colebr. (Anacardiaceae) with its 8 species is distributed from Eastern Himalaya to South China and Philippines. Only *P. nitida* Colebr. occurs in India which is distributed in Central and Eastern tropical Himalaya, from Nepal extending eastwards to Assam, up to 1200 m.

While identifying the specimens collected during a botanical tour to Mussoorie (Garhwal Himalaya), a few specimens were identified as *Peigia nitida* Colebr. on critical examination at the Herbarium of the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. A review of literature revealed that this species has so far not been reported from Western Himalaya. The present report thus extends its distribution from C. & E.tropical Himalaya westward up to Mussoorie, ascending up to 2057 m.

Pegia nitida Colebr. is a scandent shrub with imparipinnate leaves and obliquely obovoid drupes. It is worth mentioning here its correct name and sysnonyms with citations followed by flowering -- fruiting period, distribution, etc.

Pegia nitida Colebr. in Trans. Linn. Soc. 15: 364. 1827; Hara & Press in Enum. Fl. Pl. Nepal 2: 101. 1979; Deb, Fl. Tripura State 1: 465. 1981; Mukherjee & Chandra in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25 (1-4): 55. 1983. *Robergia hirsuta* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 455. 1832. *Taparia hirsuta* (Roxb) Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 28. 1876; Kanjilal *et al.*, Fl. Assam 1(2): 339. 1936.

Fl. : January - March; *Fr.:* April -May.

Distribution: India (Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura), Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Bangladesh, China and Philippines.

Specimens examined: Paritibba forest near Woodstock School, Mussoorie, *S.I. Husain & S.L. Kapoor,* 210564, 30-4-1988, fr., 'occasional in the forest' (LWG).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, for facilities.

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32. THE IDENTITY OF *PHANERA NICOBARICA* (LEGUMINOSAE : CAESALPINIOIDEAE)

Balakrishnan and Thothathri (1975) while describing *Phanera nicobarica* Balakr. & Thoth. as a new and interesting species from the Great Nicobar Island stated "This species belongs to the section *Meganthera* de Wit and approaches near to *P. stipularis* (Korth.) Benth. but differs by its longer and stouter petioles, longer pedicels, oblong-lanceolate petals and ovary with shorter stipe, peltate stigma and many ovules." But in course of a taxonomic study on the Indian Bauhinias examination of the type materials (Balakrishnan and Thothathri did not examine the type of *Bauhinia stipularis* Korth. (= *P. stipularis*) — pers. comm., Thothathri) together with some other relevant specimens from Sumatra: *Forbes* 1793, 2665 & 2928 (all CAL) and Nicobar Islands: *Chakraborty* 3231 (CAL); *Dwivedi* 8020 (CAL, PBL); *Hore* 7238 (CAL); Nair 7192 (CAL, PBL) reveals that none of the aforesaid differences hold good. Hence, *P. nicobarica* has been treated here as a synonym of B. stipularis. The full synonymy is as follows:

Bauhinia stipularis Korth. in Verh. nat. Gesch. Ned. Bezitt., Bot. 92. 1841. Type: Sumatra, *Korthals s.n.* (lectotype L No. 908. 107-1410, photo. of lectotype CAL!; isolectotype K, photo. of isolectotype CAL!). The Leiden specimen was annotated by de Wit as the lectotype in 1951 but has been cited simply as a type in his subsequent publication (1956).

Phanera stipularis (Korth.) Benth. in Miq., Pl. Jungh. 263. 1852. Type as above.

Phanera albo-lutea Miq., Fl. Ned. Ind. 1(1): 1079. 1858. Type: Padangsidempuan, *Teysmann*,H.B. 857 (holotype U, fide de Wit 1956).

Bauhinia albo-lutea (Miq.) Prain in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 66(2): 181. 1897. Type as above.

Phanera nicobarica Balakr. & Thoth. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 17(1-4): 201. 1975; *syn. nov.*. Type: 15 km on East-West road, Great Nicobar, + 100 m, 23 Aug. 1975, *Balakrishnan* 3043 (holotype CAL!; isotype CAL!, PBL); 18 km on North-south road, Great Nicobar, ± 25 m, 17 July 1976, *Balakrishnan* 3824 (paratype CAL!, PBL); on the way from Galathea Bay to Pulobaha Bay, Great Nicobar, ± 125 m, 26-3-1966. *Thothathri & Banerjee* 11661, 10661 typo. err. in protologue' (paratype CAL!).

Bauhinia nicobarica (Balakr. & Thoth.) Bennet in Ind. J. Forest. 5(4): 326. 1982. Type as above.

Note: The paratype specimen (*Thothathri & Banerjee* 11661) of *P. nicobarica* differs from rest of the specimens in having most of the petals with cuneate bases (a character not mentioned in the protologue) in addition to the few subcordate and typical cordate ones. Similar petal-character, i.e. with cuneate bases was also noted by Prain (1897: 182) but he erred in assigning this characteristic to *B. albo-lutea* which is only a synonym of *B. stipularis* (cf. de Wit 1956). This interesting variation in the petal-character requires further observation to find out whether it has any special taxonomic value.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Prof. Kai Larsen for confirming the identity of *P. nicobarica* and permitting us to publish the matter independently though they (Prof. K. & S.S. Larsen) had realized years ago that *P. nicobarica* is the same as *B. stipularis*. We are also grateful to the authorities of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for providing the photographs of the type specimens.

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33. *PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS* L. (ASTERACEAE) FROM NEIL ISLAND — A NEW ADVENTIVE TO THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mikania cordata (Burm. f.) B.L. Robinson and *Chromolaena ordorata* (L.) R.M. King and M. Robinson are the two major weeds of Asteraceae hitherto reported to be growing along roadsides and in forest clearings in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Saldanha 1987). *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. yet another member of the family Asteraceae which ranks third among the top seven weeds of the world (King 1966) has been found for the first time — on Neil, a small island situated towards the southern end of Ritchies' Archipelago, Northeast of Port Blair, South Andaman. Even a relatively recent botanical survey of the island did not include *P. hysterophorus* in the list of plants collected from there (Basu 1987).

This species is known to be dispersed mainly through the agencies of water, vehicles and animals. Wind dispersal in this species is highly restricted and is only of the order of a few metres (Auld *et al.* 1982/83). In view of this, inadvertent introduction through the agency of man is perhaps the only explanation for the occurrence of *P. hysterophorus* on so many far flung islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The complete description and other details are given by R.S. Rao, in